

## THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

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We are informed that the money raised for the construction of sidewalks has not all been appropriated. Such weather as we have had this winter will serve to indicate where the sidewalks are most needed and we trust that in the spring new applications will be made, so that the greatest benefit may be had from the money raised for this purpose. If this plan be continued for several years more the improvement in our walks will be very marked. The taxpayers of Bloomfield are willing to pay for improvements which are plainly needed, but they want the value of their money as they go along. We have yet to hear of one who objects to the sidewalk tax.

It has been generally believed that where parties are most evenly divided the public interests will be most considered, but the experience of this week in the matter of the organization of the Senate shows that there is such a thing as a party shall be too nearly equal in strength. The Republicans had one majority in the Senate, and while this was sufficient so long as all voted together, it placed it in the power of any single Senator to disturb the equilibrium. Senator Griggs was the choice of the caucus for President, but Senator Schenck, of Middlesex, demanded the office and refused to vote for anyone other than himself, and by the aid of Mr. Youngblood and the Democrats he was chosen to fill the position. This gave rise to the report that he had made a "deal" with Governor Abbott, but his subsequent vote in favor of a joint-meeting for the election of a State Treasurer and Comptroller showed that he had not gone overboard to the enemy, and much curiosity is felt as to what method he will adopt to reward his Democratic friends. Selfishness is a detestable fault in any man, and when it leads a member of the Legislature to such an act of treachery as this, it is hard to restrain the expression of the contempt which all men feel for such conduct.

## Then and Now.

This is about the time of year when the columns of our esteemed contemporaries are well supplied with accounts of centenarians and every other sort of aged folk. We have no fault to find with these cheerful and invigorating incidents. There is a hopefulness in them to gentlemen who breakfast on liver pills and dine on beef tea and similar constitutional condiments. There is still a chance for the younger generation, but after all the chance is slim when compared with the opportunities of the last set of grandfathers.

Take for example, the case of old Hardhead who is just reported to us from an interior county of the steady going state of Vermont. He always wore a night-cap; hence he had no catarrh. He always toasted his feet at the fire; hence he never got congestion of the brain. He always kept his money in an old stocking; hence he lived in no fear of banks or of bounding and flying cashiers. He ate with his knife so there was less work for the dentist. He paid his debts to the printer; hence he had a quiet conscience. That was the sort of man to live long and die lamented.

Then, too, it must not be forgotten that this same gentleman wore boots, and that the boots were of cow-hide and half a dozen sizes too big for him; hence his feet were always free from corns, bunions and odd twists and curvatures. Nor were his finger nails a source of weary labor to him. Nor did he read all the current literature. Why, the facts climb up on us at such a rate that with a few more polling places to hear from, it is certain that these venerable relics ought to hold over into the next century without trying at all.

## Sunday-School Lessons.

The father of John Stuart Mill is said to have taught him, when very young, the rudiments of the sciences, and the beginnings of the languages. Day by day he led him to understand the great truths which puzzled the minds of the most acute thinkers. The power of assimilation of the young is, at times, a matter of astonishment. History,

science and language can, to a certain extent, be taught to the merest child, and so, in late years, there has been a growth of literature for children entirely new to the world. In this line is the famous Child's History of England, by Dickens, and the later magazines, made up of science, history and stories of various kinds.

It is not difficult to be assumed that the most difficult studies cannot in some cases be simplified so as to be understood by the young. Yet the process of learning is a gradual one, from the simple to the more complex. To reverse the ordinary method and attempt to teach algebra, before the principles of arithmetic have been acquired, would be absurd. Nor would it be profitable to teach addition, division and multiplication, with the symbols of numbers. It is far better to begin with objects and mount the ladder of learning step by step.

The study of the Bible is in its nature somewhat similar to the acquisition of secular knowledge. There are in it some things hard to be understood. It contains milk for babes and meat for strongmen. Yet, a body of men, whose time has been largely devoted to Sunday school work, have devised a uniform system of study designed to meet the wants of all. It traverses the Bible in seven years, making selections for each Sunday. Its lessons are taken from almost every portion of the Scriptures. Those who begin and finish obtain a tolerably complete view of the whole of the Revealed Word. The sentiment of unity is supplemented by the power of condensed thought, able exposition and thorough system. Uniform lessons give opportunity for such a sale of commentaries, books, maps and papers, as to permit them more thorough preparation than before. A very considerable gain to Sunday school work; perhaps, the most important development of the century.

There is however in this system a lack of elasticity, which is occasionally discouraging. The same lessons are given to all. Child, youth, mature man, all must be taught from the same Bible-text. Nor is this entirely impossible. Usually, only important matters are selected. Illustration is possible for the children when the subject treated is difficult. Yet it is not the natural process. The simpler teachings of the Bible are better for the children; the more profound may well occupy the attention of the Biblical students. There should be an adaptation of lesson-subjects as well as of methods in teaching.

In a word, though the unity of the International system might be marred, it would be well to arrange two or three co-ordinate courses for the primary, intermediate and Bible classes. A glance at the subjects presented for study the present year will show the difficulty and suggest a remedy. Think of trying to teach infant classes the truths of Paul's address to the Ephesian elders, his defence at Jerusalem, and the profound doctrines of the epistles; or imagine an effort to explain to the same small children the intricacies of Old Testament chronology, or the prophecies. Let the International system by all means be expanded so as to give the little children a chance. The limit of illustration has been reached. The next step must be in the direction of easier subjects for the infant classes.

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Carefully corrected up to date.

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TO NEW YORK

Leave Newark—6:30, 7:15, 7:55, 8:25, 9:15, 10:35, 11:35 a.m.; 12:50, 1:40, 2:30, 4:45, 5:25, 6:10, 6:57, 8:15, 9:40, 11:05 p.m. 12:20 a.m.

Leave New York—6:00, 7:17, 7:57, 8:30, 9:17, 10:37, 11:37 a.m.; 12:53, 1:43, 3:32, 4:47, 5:27, 6:13, 7:00, 8:18, 9:43, 11:08 p.m. 12:25 a.m.

Leave Bloomfield—6:08, 7:19, 7:59, 8:32, 9:19, 10:39, 11:39 a.m.; 12:56, 1:45, 3:35, 4:49, 5:29, 6:15, 7:05, 8:20, 9:45, 11:10 p.m. 12:25 a.m.

Arrive Newark—6:23, 7:30, 8:10, 9:30, 10:50, 11:50 a.m.; 1:08, 1:58, 3:47, 5:00, 5:40, 6:58, 7:26, 8:37, 10:08, 11:22 p.m. 12:34 a.m.

Arrive New York—6:50, 8:00, 8:40, 9:10, 10:00, 11:20 a.m.; 12:20, 1:40, 2:30, 4:20, 5:30, 6:10, 7:10, 7:55, 9:10, 10:40, 11:55 p.m.

FROM NEW YORK

Leave New York—6:30, 7:20, 8:10, 9:30, 10:30, 11:20 a.m.; 12:40, 2:10, 3:40, 4:20, 4:50, 5:30, 6:20, 7:10, 8:30, 10:00, 11:15 p.m.

Leave Newark—6:40, 7:15, 7:55, 8:43, 10:03, 11:03, 11:53 a.m.; 1:13, 2:44, 4:13, 5:26, 6:03, 6:53, 7:48, 9:03, 10:38, 11:53 p.m.